

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL IZMIR TURKEY

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1277

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: CONFLICT WITHIN RPP

SUMMARY: MODERATES WIN TEST OF STRENGTH IN IZMIR
COUNTY RPP CONGRESS. RESULTS NOT CONCLUSIVE HOWEVER,
AND INTERNAL CONFLICT LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME.
END SUMMARY.

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1. AFTER ELEVEN HOUR RPP IZMIR CENTRAL COUNTY CONGRESS
NOVEMBER 10, MODERATE FACTION OF PARTY EMERGED
VICTORIOUS BY SLIM MARGIN OF FOURTEEN OUT OF 478 VOTES
CAST. CONGRESS BEGAN WITH VICTORY FOR SO-CALLED
EXTREMIST (DEMOKRATEK SOL) FORCES WHEN IZMIR DEPUTY
KAYA BENGISU WAS ELECTED TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN OF MEETING.
BENGISU DEFEATED MINISTER OF CONSTRUCTION ALI TOPUZ,
WHO HAD BEEN SENT FROM ANKARA TO PERFORM LARGELY
HONORIFIC ROLE OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.

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2. THROUGHOUT MEETING ATMOSPHERE WAS TENSE. MODERATE

FACTION, GENERALLY ASSOCIATED WITH PARTY ESTABLISHMENT, WAS ON DEFENSIVE ENTIRE DAY. DEPUTIES ALEV COSKUN, KEMAL ONDER, AND YUKSEL CAKMUR WERE BOOED WHEN THEY ARRIVED AND WHEN THEY SPOKE.

3. REASON FOR MODERATE VICTORY NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR, ALTHOUGH SPEECH BY POPULAR MINISTER OF CUSTOMS AND MONOPOLY MAHMUT TURKMENOGU, WHO HAS RECENTLY BECOME IDENTIFIED WITH MODERATE FACTION, WAS APPARENTLY MAJOR

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FACTOR. ANOTHER FACTOR WAS INCLUSION ON EXTREMIST LIST OF PROPOSED DELEGATES TO PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF SEVERAL PERSONS ALLEGEDLY SELECTED FOR FAMILY RATHER THAN PARTY AFFILIATION.

4. MODERATES HAVE COME OUT OF SERIES OF 19 COUNTY CONGRESSES IN IZMIR PROVINCE VICTORIOUS BUT SHAKEN. CURRENT PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN NOW CONVINCED EITHER HE OR HAND-PICKED SUCCESSOR WILL BE EASILY ELECTED CHAIRMAN AT PROVINCIAL CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR DEC. 1. BY HIS COUNT ONLY THREE OF NINETEEN COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS ARE IN HANDS OF EXTREMISTS. NEVERTHELESS MODERATES KNOW THEY HAVE BEEN IN A FIGHT AND ARE CONCERNED THEY MAY NOT BE ABLE CONTROL SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN SPRING.

5. EXTREMISTS FOR THEIR PART SEEM SATISFIED ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE ABANDONED HOPE OF TAKING OVER PROVINCIAL PARTY ORGANIZATION. THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE CONFIRMED ACCEPTANCE OF IDEA RPP MUST BE REFORMIST PARTY. AT SAME

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TIME HOWEVER THEY BELITTLE EXTENT OF INTERNAL PARTY CONFLICT ATTRIBUTING IT TO PERSONAL POWER STRUGGLES RATHER THAN IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES. THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLAIM FERMENT WITHIN PARTY, WHICH OF COURSE SERVES THEIR PERSONAL AS WELL AS IDEOLOGICAL INTERESTS, IS BASICALLY HEALTHY SIGN, AND THAT PARTY WILL IN END BE STRONGER THAN IF IT DEMONSTRATED SERVILE OBEDIENCE THEY PERCEIVE IN JP.

6. COMMENT: FOR TIME BEING MODERATES HAVE RETAINED CONTROL, BUT MEMBERS OF PARTY ESTABLISHMENT NOT

BREATHING EASILY. WE ARE TOLD ECEVIT CONCERNED ABOUT THIS "DANGER FROM THE LEFT" AND IS PREPARED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST IT AT OPPORTUNE MOMENT. ACCORDING TO IZMIR RPP PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN, ECEVIT SUFFICIENTLY CONCERNED THAT HE CALLED NIGHT OF COUNTY CONGRESS TO ASK RESULTS. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AND RELIEF AT OUTCOME. THAT RELIEF MAY BE SHORT-LIVED. IN AEGEAN AREA AT LEAST EXTREMISTS APPEAR TO BE MAKING SUBSTANTIAL HEADWAY. BY TIME OPPORTUNE MOMENT APPEARS EXTREMIST ELEMENT MAY

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BE SO WELL ENTRENCHED THAT ACTION AGAINST ITS MEMBERS WOULD SHATTER PARTY -- AN ACTION VERY FEW PARTY LEADERS TAKE WILLINGLY. MOREOVER, PARTY OUT OF POWER AND PREPARING FOR ELECTIONS MAY WELL ALLOW ITSELF TO BE MANEUVERED INTO MORE EXTREMIST POSITIONS IN ORDER MAINTAIN PARTY UNITY AS IT GOES TO POLLS.
SMITH

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